

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/800,204

Examiner

MESEKER TAKELE

Applicant(s)

VAN DER HOEVEN, STEVEN

Art Unit

2175

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 02/04/2008.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 24-47.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date ____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date attached.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____.

/William L. Bashore/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2175

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT AND REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

27. (Currently Amended) A system for an interface for data entry, comprising
a sensor having a set of zones, wherein at least one of the set of zones is non-contiguous with at least one other of the set of zones, the sensor operable for:

detecting an input with respect to the interface wherein detecting the input comprises detecting a press in a first zone of the set of zones, detecting a release in a second zone of the set of zones and detecting a movement between the press and release, wherein detecting the movement further comprises detecting entering or leaving one or more of the set of zones between the press in the first zone and the release in the second zone and contact is maintained with the interface between the press in the first zone and the release in the second zone;

a processor; and

processor executable instructions in a memory, the instructions ~~logic~~ operable for:

associating a semantic meaning with the input based on a set of semantic meanings associated with the first zone, wherein the semantic meaning is selected from the set of semantic meanings based on the second zone.

Interview Summary

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ari Akmal on 04/17/2008.

Statement of Reasons for Allowance

2. Claims 24 - 47 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

The prior art made of record fails to anticipate or make obvious the claimed invention. Specifically, the prior art fails to teach, in combination with the remaining elements, the distinctive limitations of

detecting a press in a first zone of a set of zones, wherein at least one of the set of zones is non-contiguous with at least one other of the set of zones and at least one of the set of zones differs in shape from at least one other of the set zones;

detecting a release in a second zone of the set of zones and detecting a movement between the press and release, wherein detecting the movement further comprises detecting entering or leaving one or more of the set of zones between the press in the first zone and the release in the second zone and contact is maintained with the interface between the press in the first zone and the release in the second zone; and

associating a semantic meaning with the input based on a set of semantic meanings associated with the first zone, wherein the semantic meaning is selected from the set of semantic meanings associated with the first zone based on the second zone as recited, or similarly recited in claims 24 and 27.

The closest prior art, Panagrossi et al. ("Panagrossi" U.S. Patent No.: 6,104,317), Hirshberg et al. ("Hirshberg" U.S. Pub No.: 2002/0027549) and Luo (U.S. Patent No.: 6,378,234) when combined, show a substantially similar device or computer-readable medium with instructions for performing the applicable steps.

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Panagrossi teaches similar matters regarding data entry device and method. Specifically, the device includes: (1) a data entry device with a digitizer having key input regions for receiving stroke inputs (2) Key input region have multiple characters indicated on them (3) the digitizer has an output providing x and y co-ordinate data for stroke inputs (4) a computational device accepts x and y co-ordinate data from the digitizer, identifies a key input region in which a stroke is entered and measures parameters of the entered stroke (5) a memory has correlation information correlating stroke parameters for a given key input region with characters indicated on that input region.

Hirshberg teaches a multifunctional keypad implemented using a touch screen, and a corresponding method for operating a keypad. The multifunction keypad include: (1) a touch-sensitive surface having defined thereon a plurality of regions designated as keys; and (2) a processor associated with the touch-sensitive surface and configured to: (3) identify a contact location at which an object comes into contact with the touch-sensitive surface, (4) determine a selected one of the keys corresponding to the one of the regions within which the contact location is located, (5) identify a direction of motion of the object across the touch-sensitive surface relative to the contact location, and (6) select in a manner conditional upon at least the direction of motion one of a plurality of functions associated with the selected key.

Lou teaches keyboards possessing fewer keys than the number of characters which may be generated by using the keyboard, and most specifically to such keyboards which utilize linked keystrokes to generate characters, the Keyboard system include: (1) suited for one-handed entry of information into a digital device; (2) a keyboard which is

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ergonomic (3) a keyboard which can be learned intuitively and which does not require memorization.

However, neither Panagrossi alone, or in combination with Hirshberg, and Luo teach the specific limitation as recited in the independent claims 24 and 27. Therefore, Panagrossi, Hirshberg and Luo still fail to anticipate or render the above-cited limitations obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **MESEKER TAKELE** whose telephone number is (571)270-1653. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:30AM-5:00PM est.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **William Bashore** can be reached on **(571) 272-4088**. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/M. T./

Examiner, Art Unit 2175

/William L. Bashore/
William L. Bashore
Primary Examiner
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